



# Austin's Healthy Streets Initiative



## Mobility Committee

November 19, 2020

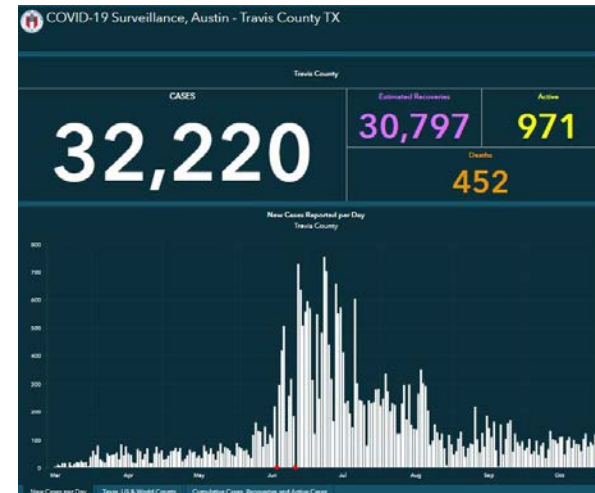


AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION

# City Council Direction

**RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Manager is directed to immediately create a slow streets initiative for Austin entitled “Healthy Streets” that will facilitate safe, socially distanced walking, bicycling, and other outdoor use and active transportation on neighborhood streets and discourage automobile through-traffic while still allowing local automobile movement.



COVID-19: Risk-Based Guidelines

	Practise Good Hygiene Stay Home if Sick Avoid Sick People	Maintain Social Distancing	Wear Face Coverings	Higher Risk Individuals Age over 65, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart, lung and kidney disease, immunocompromised, obesity			Lower Risk Individual No substantial underlying conditions		S
				Avoid Gatherings	Avoid Non-Essential Travel	Avoid Dining/ Shopping	Avoid Gatherings	Avoid Non-Essential Travel	
Stage 1	•			greater than 25		except with precautions	gathering size TBD		
Stage 2	•	•	•	greater than 10		except as essential	greater than 25		ex pe
Stage 3	•	•	•	social and greater than 10	•	except as essential	social and greater than 10		ex pe
Stage 4	•	•	•	social and greater than 2	•	except as essential	social and greater than 10	•	e b
Stage 5	•	•	•	outside of household	•	except as essential	outside of household	•	4

# April 2020 – Early Efforts

---





## May 2020 - First 5 Miles

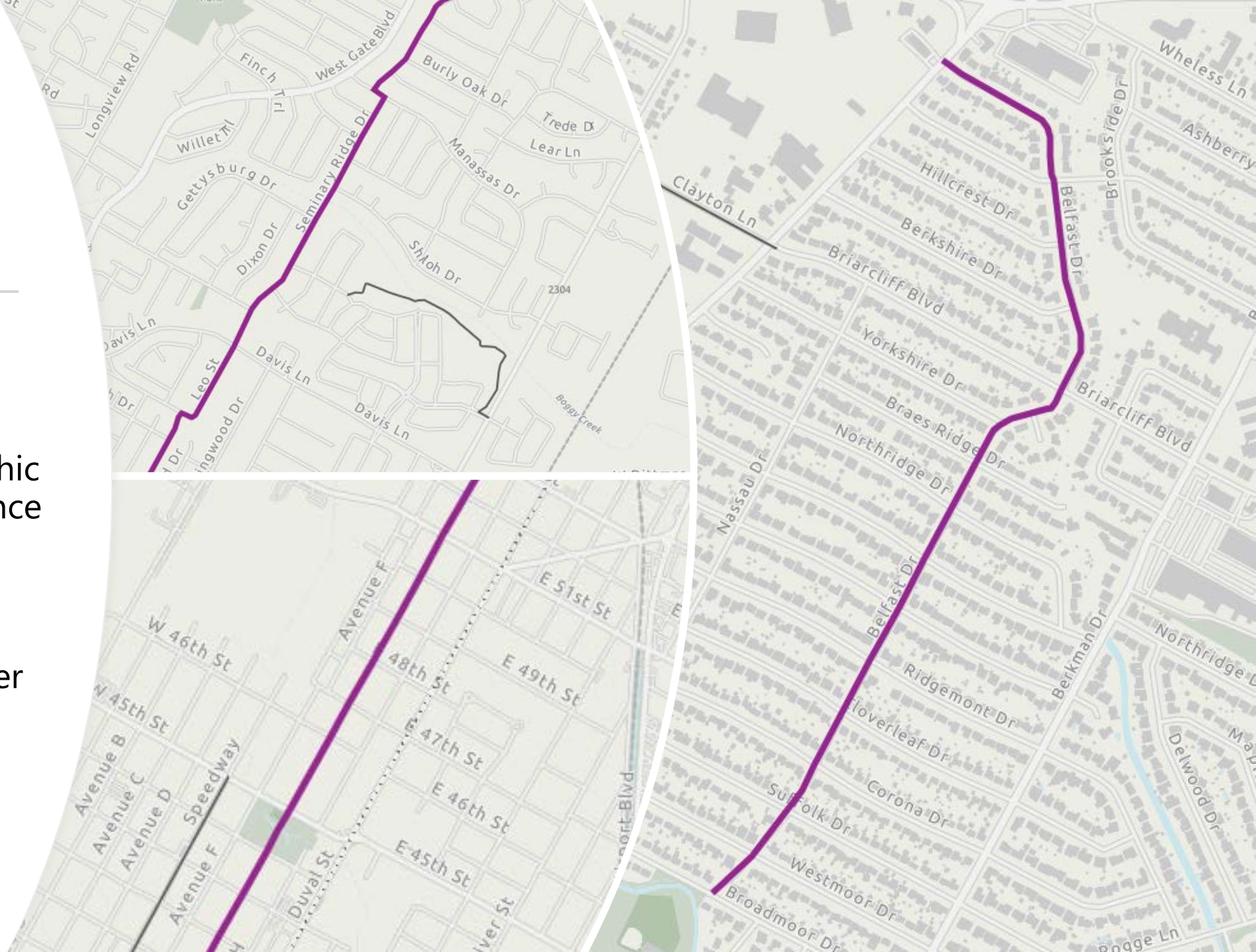
- Installed quickly
- Approximately 5 miles
- Criteria included:
  - Lack of park space
  - Disproportionate COVID impacts
  - Lack of comfort for people walking or bicycling using existing infrastructure
  - Alternative to crowded trail system
  - Connection to existing infrastructure





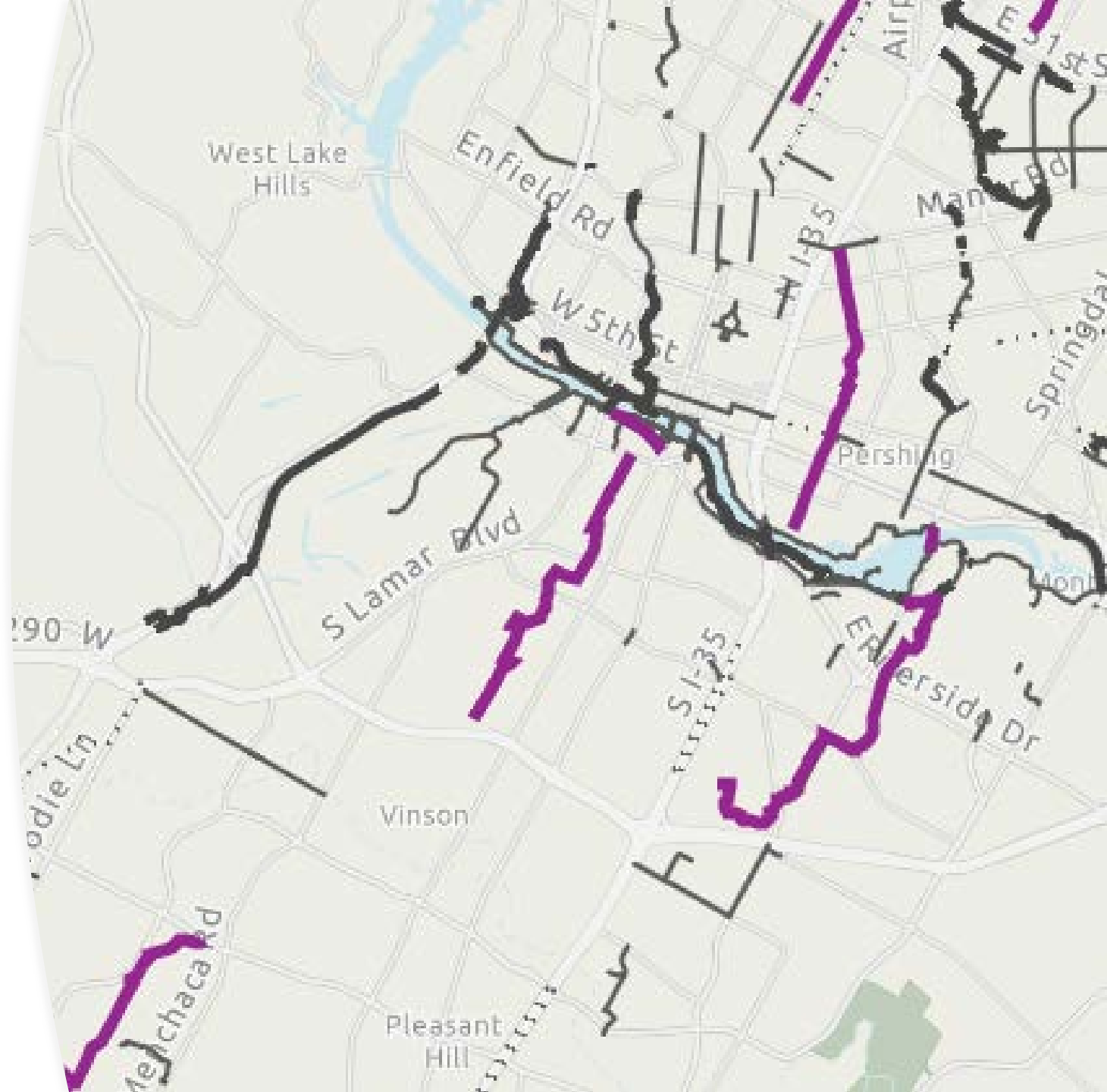
## July 2020 – Another 5 miles

- Installed after public engagement process
- Selected for geographic diversity and preference based on community feedback
- Focused on neighborhoods further north and south of existing streets



# Full Program

- 12 miles
- 25 street segments
- 6 Council Districts
- Using a combination of treatments, including:
  - "Curb Extensions" through barricades/barrels
  - Outside lane closures
  - Chicanes using barrels
  - Connections to existing trails and bikeways
- 35 Block Captains
- 2 City Departments
- 6 Divisions

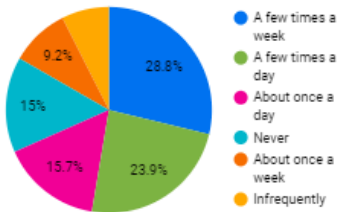




# How are people using Healthy Streets?

Survey respondents are asked several questions about how they use Healthy Streets so the the project team can evaluate if the initiative is successfully creating space for physical and mental wellness. Respondents are also asked about their priorities for broader transportation issues that the City could address related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as supporting essential trips and slowing vehicles.

How often do you use Healthy Streets?	# of Respondents
A few times a week	321
A few times a day	266
About once a day	175
Never	167
About once a week	103
Infrequently	83



Who do you use Healthy Streets with?		
<i>*people could choose all that apply, so percentages do not add up to 100%*</i>		
*I use them with other adults who are part of my household.*	59.96%	581
*No one; I use them by myself.*	44.48%	431
*I use them with children from my household.*	27.55%	267
*I use them with people who aren't part of my household.*	18.89%	183

0% 50% 100%

What transportation issues are important to your ability to thrive as best as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic?		
<i>*people could choose all that apply, so percentages do not add up to 100%*</i>		
*Creating safe spaces to walk, jog, roll, ride a bicycle, and use other active transportation modes.*	77.92%	886
*Slowing speeding traffic.*	54.88%	624
*Supporting transportation options for me to get to essential locations like work, medical appointments, and stores.*	32.37%	368

0% 50% 100%

Why are you using Healthy Streets?		
<i>*people could choose all that apply, so percentages do not add up to 100%*</i>		
*For physical activity and/or mental wellness.*	69.72%	822
*To get to retail, restaurants, or other commercial services.*	23.66%	279
*I am not currently using a Healthy Street.*	19.93%	235
*To get or deliver food or other essential items.*	18.24%	215
*I live on a Healthy Street.*	17.05%	201
*For essential trips to work.*	13.91%	164
*To get to medical appointments.*	7.04%	83

0% 50% 100%

What ways are you using Healthy Streets?		
<i>*people could choose all that apply, so percentages do not add up to 100%*</i>		
*Walking*	68.42%	730
*Riding a bicycle*	66.92%	714
*Jogging or Running*	36.74%	392
*Driving or riding in a car*	25.49%	272
*Parking a personal vehicle*	8.34%	89
*Using a wheelchair or other mobility assistive device*	1.03%	11

0% 50% 100%

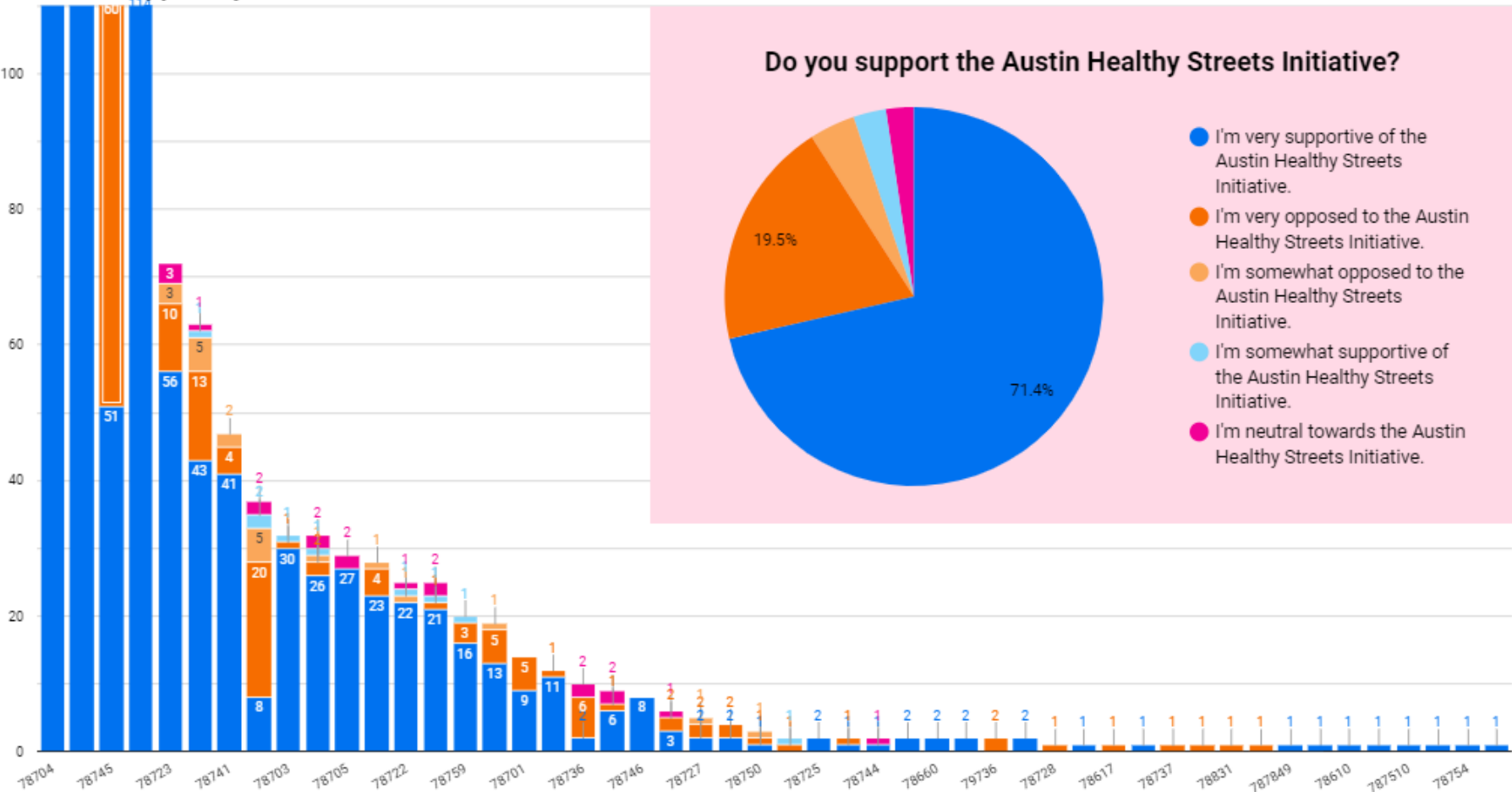


AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION

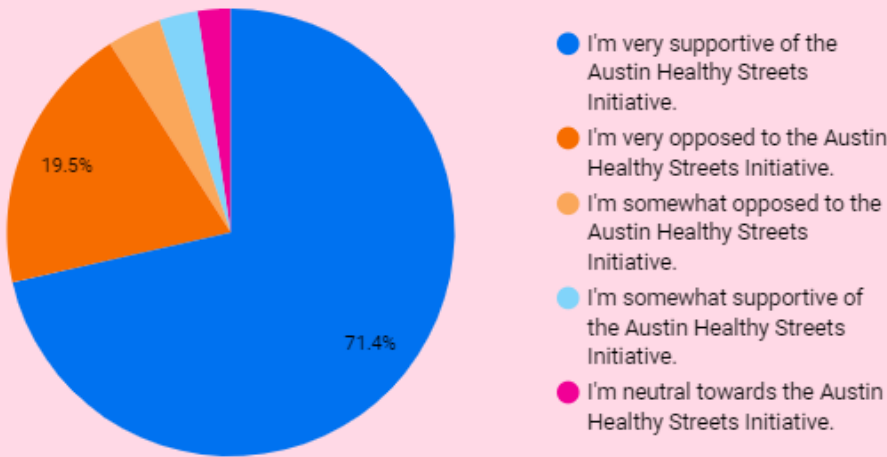
# Do people support Healthy Streets?

Total Survey Responses **1,179**

Level of support by ZIP Code



Do you support the Austin Healthy Streets Initiative?



"Seeing neighbors, kids, and families out and about enjoying life has given a renewed sense of happiness with our previously congested city. Austin I am so happy you have been a leader in this movement around the country."

"Something is not working here. I don't like the way it's currently set up."

"I was considering moving to the country since my job is now fully remote forever, the cost/benefit of living in town has gone upside down. But this Healthy Streets initiative changed my mind."



AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION



# Current Status

- Initiated slow wind down
- Presently maintaining 5 miles on 8 street segments in 4 Council Districts
- Evaluating use and balancing with costs, staff capacity and operational changes





# Slow Streets Pilot Program

- A component of the Sidewalk and Urban Trails plan update.
- Will result in a toolkit comprised of a variety of treatments for various contexts.
- Involves developing criteria/threshold for candidate slow/shared streets as well as a selection, design, delivery and evaluation process
- Goal is to develop up to 10 candidate streets for implementation in a pilot program.

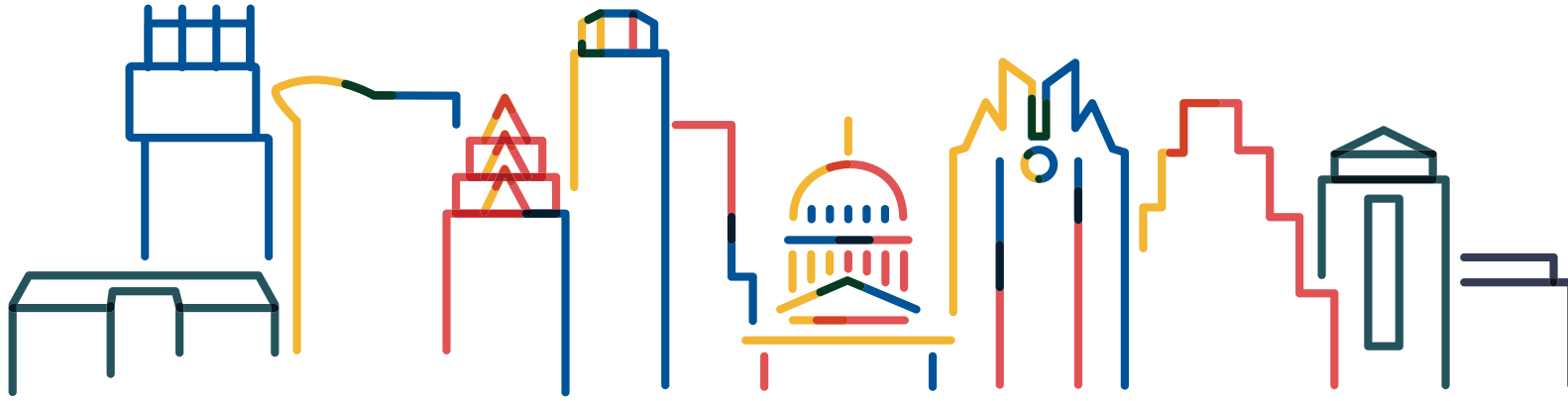




# Related Work

- Speed Management Program
- Neighborhood Bikeways
- Protected Intersections
- Congress Avenue Interim Safety and Mobility Improvements
- Pedestrian Crossings





[austintexas.gov/healthystreets](https://austintexas.gov/healthystreets)



[healthystreets@austintexas.gov](mailto:healthystreets@austintexas.gov)



AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION